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Letter dated 11 April 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 28 February 2005 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 to 28 February 2005.

2. As at 28 February 2005, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,614, including 2,809 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There is no change to the status of partner/non-NATO nation contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo is improved, although underlying tension remains and will continue in the foreseeable future.

5. Ethnic-related tension remains an underlying concern, although the level of inter-ethnic incidents actually decreased in the reporting month. Five such incidents were reported in February compared with eight in January. The February events included two incidents where Kosovo-Serbs were targeted, one which involved a Kosovar-Albanian, one against a Kosovo-Bosnian and one targeting a Kosovo-Romany.

6. Electrical power failures continue to pose problems and could potentially lead to unrest.

7. There were no reported acts of violence or significant threats against KFOR. Two force protection incidents were reported during February, although this does not entail a change in the assessment of the threat level compared with that of previous months.

8. In terms of organized crime, there was a total of 41 incidents related to the smuggling of drugs and weapons and other smuggling activities in February 2005. This is an increase over the number of such incidents in January, when there were 13.

9. KFOR continues operations to prevent ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites and remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter a resurgence of violence.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

10. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during February 2005.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11. The current membership of KPC is 3,020 active members, including 130 members of ethnic minorities, of whom 20 are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,809 members, of whom 17 are from ethnic minorities. Minority representation decreased from 4.75 per cent in January to 4.30 per cent in February 2005. Task Force 8 is working to recruit members of ethnic minorities

with the aim of fulfilling recommendations. With reference to retention of ethnic minority members within KPC, preliminary results show that the main reasons for their leaving are low salaries, poor infrastructure, lack of clarity on the role of KPC and intimidation from within their own communities.

12. During February 2005, the Multinational Brigades carried out 68 roll calls. The percentage of personnel absent without permission increased from 0.99 per cent in January 2005 to 1.26 per cent during the reporting period.

13. Due to rotations within KPC, six applications for weapons authorization cards (for bodyguards) were drafted by KPC. The required background checking procedure is ongoing in close cooperation with United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo police.

14. Regular training activities were conducted during the reporting period in accordance with the annual plan. Emergency readiness training working group meetings are taking place. The purpose of the working group meetings is to standardize emergency readiness training practice within the KFOR area of responsibility. KPC members of each pick-up zone will receive specialized occupational training at each Multinational Brigade.

Conclusion

15. The situation in Kosovo is improved but fragile, with continuing underlying tension.